



February 24, 2022

The Honourable Helena Jaczek
Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6
Helena.Jaczek@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Jaczek:

As business, tourism and municipal leaders in Windsor we are joined in our effort today to advocate for urgent and immediate support from the federal government for businesses that have been impacted by the recent illegal occupation of the Ambassador Bridge and the ongoing restrictions on Huron Church Road, leading to the Bridge.

We were disappointed to learn, recently, that the program established by your Ministry and administered by Invest Ottawa was limited to downtown-Ottawa area businesses, and expressly excluded those businesses which continue to see impacts in west-end Windsor.

As you are aware, the City of Windsor was site to an illegal occupation at the foot of the Ambassador Bridge, disrupting trade and commerce for the United States and Canada for nearly a week. Subsequent to a successful Injunction Order granted by Ontario Superior Court Chief Justice Morawetz, on February 11, 2022 Windsor Police, with the tactical assistance of the OPP and RCMP were able to clear the roadway for traffic once again on February 14, 2022. However, since that time, the national security threats posed by the continued risk of recidivism and potential protest activity has resulted in a heightened security presence along Huron Church Road, the municipal artery which connects the Ambassador Bridge to Ontario's 401 highway system. While local police are doing their best to clear access to impacted businesses along Huron Church Road, for dozens of establishments along this roadway, access to their business remains limited and commercial traffic reduced as a result.

Windsor Police, and their partners in law enforcement have done an exemplary job in quickly clearing the illegal occupation and maintaining the security of Huron Church Road for over \$400-million in goods that travel this crossing each day. Unfortunately, the price of that economic security has meant a significant and sustained loss for small and medium sized businesses who operate along Huron Church Road in Windsor.

We urge you to offer similar compensation as your Government has done to impacted businesses in downtown Ottawa to the comparatively much smaller number of impacted entrepreneurs here in Windsor. To not offer comparable support sends a clear signal from your Government that businesses in Windsor are second-class to those in the shadow of Parliament Hill. The federal government has shown leadership during each stage of this pandemic, offering support for individuals, families and businesses impacted by the public health restrictions.

We urge you to show the same level of leadership and support the business community along Huron Church Road, who managed through the pandemic and now must cope with police barricades designed to protect our national economy from those who would seek to disrupt it because they oppose Canada's pandemic-related policies.

We appreciate your swift attention to this matter and would be available to meet at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Drew Dilkens
Mayor, City of Windsor
T: 519-255-6315
E: mayoro@citywindsor.ca



Rakesh Naidu
President & Chief Executive Officer
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
T: 519-966-3696 ext. 222
E: rnaidu@windsoressexchamber.org



Gordon Orr
Chief Executive Officer
Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island
T: 519-253-3616
E: gorr@tourismwindsoressex.com